discussed the issues arising out of the nuclear tests by India. The meeting noted with appreciation that India had made some positive statements in the field of nuclear non-proliferation after the nuclear tests. Subsequent to this meeting, on a project approved for funding by the World Bank, some of the G-8 countries voted for the proposal while others abstained.

(d) The Government regards all unilateral economic measures imposed against India as unjustified and counterproductive and is of the view that they should be lifted. The Government is in touch with G-8 countries at various levels on the related issues.

**Passport Adalats**

2681. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold passport adalats all over the country to redress grievances in obtaining passports;

(b) if so, the locations identified where such adalats are likely to be set up;

(c) the number of passport seekers registered with each of the passport office, State-wise as on 31st January, 1999; and

(d) the time by which the passport seekers would get their passports?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Passport Office, Hyderabad and Regional Passport Office, Calcutta have held passport adalats recently on an experimental basis. It is proposed that gradually all passport offices would hold these adalats.

(c) A statement showing the number of passport seekers registered with each of the passport offices as on 31st January 1999 is attached. (*See* below)

(d) It is Government's endeavour to issue a passport within five weeks. Wherever delays occur, these are usually due to increase in number of passport applications, receipt of negative or incomplete police reports, discrepancies in documents submitted by the applicants and submission of incompleted application forms.

**Statement**

*Number of Applications Pending with Passport Offices as on 31.1.1999*

| Sl. No. | Passport Office | Applications Pending |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Ahmedabad | 17129 |
| 2. | Bangalore | 380968 |
| 3. | Bareilly | 23856 |
| 4. | Bhopal | 3477 |
| 5. | Bhubaneshwar | 4861 |
| 6. | Mumbai | 27211 |
| 7. | Calcutta | 12167 |
| 8. | Chandigarh | 28491 |
| 9. | Cochin | 9489 |
| 10. | Delhi | 25143 |
| 11. | Ghaziabad | 6610 |
| 12. | Guwahati | 2875 |
| 13. | Hyderabad | 30883 |
| 14. | Jaipur | 29129 |
| 15. | Jalandhar | 34117 |
| 16. | Jammu | 7604 |
| 17. | Kozhikode | 29018 |
| 18. | Lucknow | 22681 |
| 19. | Chennai | 29640 |
| 20. | Nagpur | 1443 |
| 21. | Panaji | 861 |
| 22. | Patna | 7395 |
| 23. | Pune | 1257 |
| 24. | Srinagar | 2641 |
| 25. | Thane | 1597 |
| 26. | Trichy | 59469 |
| 27. | Trivandrum | 7331 |
| 28. | Visakhapatnam | 4532 |